

MEMORANDUM

FILE: DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL 13.9.7 AND 14.14.10  
TO: DISTRICT ENGINEERS  
THRU: LARRY ROBINSON  
FROM: LOU HARMON  
DATE: February 10, 1992

13.9.7

SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWER LINE SEPARATION, WQD CHAPTERS XI & XII

1. PRESENT STANDARDS: The standard separation of water and sewer lines of 10 feet horizontally and 18" vertically is derived from the 10 States Standards. Joint technology has improved greatly since those standards were developed. These standards are set forth in Chapter XI at Part B, Section 9(f)(ii) on page 16 and Chapter XII at Section 14(g)(i) on page 70.
2. CONTINUED APPLICATION OF PRESENT STANDARDS: Wherever possible and for all entirely new construction, it shall be the policy of DEQ/WQD to continue to enforce the standards as set forth in Chapter XII which will be considered to rule over Chapter XI.
3. POLICY FOR GRANTING VARIANCES TO PRESENT STANDARDS: For replacement or addition of water or sewer lines in existing rights-of-way with existing utilities the following guidelines may be used to grant variances upon request to Chapters XI and XII.
  - A. Crossings: The lines shall have a minimum separation of 6". Both lines shall be constructed of approved water pipe materials. Both lines shall be laid so that there are no joints or taps within 9 feet of the crossing. The sewer line constructed of water line grade pipe shall be continuously marked by means of a wrapping of wire or tape indicating the lines purpose. Structural analysis must be provided to establish the upper line can bridge an excavation for the lower line.
  - B. Parallel Lines: The lines shall be constructed as close to the Chapter XII requirements as possible. The minimum separation shall never be less than 6". The sewer line constructed of water line grade pipe shall be

continuously marked by means of a wrapping of wire or tape indicating the lines purpose. The sewer line and the water line must be pressure tested for leakage to the standards of Chapter XII in the areas for which a variation is granted.

4. PLANS TO SHOW EXISTING FACILITIES: Plans submitted for permits to construct shall show all existing lines within the area of construction. The engineer and owner shall locate physically by excavation those lines that will require variances to Chapter XI and XII spacing requirements. The standard practice of including a note on the plans of making the location of existing lines the responsibility of the construction contractor will not be considered adequate for issuing a variance to the spacing requirements.